

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /007 W
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R 061620Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8345

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 4698

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ARA/PAN ALSO PASS DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR GENERAL DOLVIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - ACTIVITIES OF LANDS AND WATERS
SUB-GROUP

SUMMARY: AS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS WAS AGREED DURING MAY 1976
NEGOTIATING ROUND, PANAMANIAN MEMBERS OF LANDS AND WATERS
SUB-GROUP HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING WITH EXTENSIVE SERIES OF TOURS
AND BRIEFINGS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LANDS AND WATERS USE IN
CANAL ZONE, ARRANGED WITH COOPERATION OF PANCANAL, SOUTHCOM
AND OTHER USG AGENCIES IN CANAL ZONE. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES
A SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO DATE AND AN INDICATION
OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED PRIOR TO NEXT FORMAL NE-
GOTIATING ROUND. A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY
OBSERVATIONS ON PANAMANIAN PERCEPTIONS OF THIS EXERCISE,
AND THE FEW OBSERVATIONS GLEANED SO FAR WHICH MAY BE RELEVANT
TO ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMAT: PANAMANIAN LANDS AND WATERS SUB-GROUP, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS WAS AGREED DURING
MAY 1976 NEGOTIATING ROUND, PRESENTED EMBASSY ON MAY 24
WITH SUGGESTED ITINERARY FOR FIRST IN A SERIES OF VISITS
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TO OBSERVE LANDS AND WATERS USE, US FACILITIES AND

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN CANAL ZONE. THIS WAS SUPPLEMENTED ON MAY 26 WITH DETAILED SET OF SUGGESTED ITINERARIES COVERING SIX-WEEK PERIOD (COPIES INCLUDING INFORMAL TRANSLATION POUCHED ARA/PAN - BECKER AND DOD/ISA - JACKLEY UNDER HINSON-JACKLEY LETTER OF JUNE 4). WORKING FROM THIS GENERAL FRAMEWORK, ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM PANAMANIAN SIDE, AND ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM VARIOUS POINTS WITHIN USG (WHICH PANAMANIANS HAVE GENERALLY ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPTED), EMBASSY HAS COORDINATED SERIES OF VISITS AND BRIEFINGS DESCRIBED BELOW WITH SOUTHCOM, PANCANAL AND OTHER AGENCIES AS APPROPRIATE.

2. PARTICIPATION: DUE TO SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES, SENIOR PANAMANIAN LANDS AND WATERS SUB-GROUP MEMBER EDWIN FABREGA HAS AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVITIES. PANAMANIAN PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN DRS. OMAR JAEN AND FLAVIO VELASQUEZ, ADVISERS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TREATY GROUP AND ITS SPECIALISTS ON LANDS AND WATERS ISSUE. FYI: AS DEPT AWARE, NEITHER HAS PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING; VELASQUEZ IS AN ECONOMIST AND JAEN IS A HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHER OF SOME SCHOLARLY NOTE. END FYI. AT GEN. DOLVIN'S SUGGESTION, NATIONAL GUARD G-3 LT. COL. CONTRERAS WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE, OR SEND REPRESENTATIVE, FOR BRIEFING/VISIT TO EMPIRE RANGE, BUT FAILED TO DO SO. GOP NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY DIRECTOR ARNOLDO CANO AND THREE ENGINEERS FROM HIS STAFF ATTENDED PANCANAL SESSION ON PORTS AND MARINE OPERATIONS. EMBASSY HAS BEEN REPRESENTED BY POLOFF HINSON. SOUTHCOM AND PANCANAL HAS PROVIDED OFFICERS INVOLVED IN TREATY MATTERS TO ACCOMPANY ALL VISITS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE FACILITIES, AND HAVE ADDED OTHER SPECIALISTS AS REQUIRED FOR SPECIFIC MEETINGS. DURING WEEK OF JUNE 14-18, LT. COL. DUKER OF GEN. DOLVIN'S STAFF, WHO WAS PRESENT ON ISTHMUS, PARTICIPATED IN GROUP ACTIVITIES.

3. PUBLICITY: PANAMANIANS CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF THIS SUB-GROUP'S ACTIVITIES AS PART OF CONFIDENTIAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS; IN ADDITION TO NOT PUBLICIZING CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER, THEY ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO RESTRICT ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS TO GOP TREATY GROUP AND HAVE REQUESTED THAT US SIDE DO THE SAME. PANCANAL HAS POINTED OUT THAT MEETINGS LIKE THAT ON PORTS, IN WHICH OFFICIALS OTHER THAN ITS TREATY PLANNING GROUP PARTICIPATE, MAY LEAD TO DISCLOSURE OF THESE ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUGH SUCH MEETINGS ARE IDENTIFIED INTERNALLY BY PANCANAL AS FACTUAL BRIEFINGS AND EFFORT IS MADE TO

RESTRICT EXPLICIT INDICATION OF DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO NEGOTIATIONS PROPER. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE OF DISCLOSURE AND NO ACTIVE INDICATION OF PROBLEMS IN THIS RESPECT.

4. BRIEFINGS/VISITS TO DATE: FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF TRIPS OR BRIEFINGS WHICH GROUP HAS MADE TO DATE:

A. PACIFIC SIDE, WEST BANK: DRIVING VISIT TO HOWARD-KOBBE-RODMAN-FARFAN, ARRAIJAN TANK FARM, COCOLI, PARTIAL ROAD VISIT TO EMPIRE RANGE INCLUDING SUMMIT OF CERRO GORDO, OBSERVATION OF PANCANAL BANK STABILIZATION PROGRAM IS FAILLARD CUT AND OF VARIOUS DREDGE SPOIL DUMP AREAS. (MAY 26)

B. ATLANTIC SIDE: DRIVING VISIT TO ALL SIGNIFICANT POINTS OF INTEREST ON ATLANTIC SIDE; OF NECESSITY, TOUR WAS SOMEWHAT SUPERFICIAL AND GROUP MAY RE-VISIT CERTAIN FACILITIES OR AREAS AT LATER DATE. (JUNE 2)

C. EMPIRE RANGE: ORGANIZED BY SOUTHCOM AT GEN. DOLVIN'S SUGGESTION, DAY'S PROGRAM INCLUDED BRIEFINGS FROM USAF ON BALBOA WEST BOMB RANGE AND FROM 193RD INFANTRY BRIGADE ON EMPIRE RANGE FACILITIES, HELICOPTER TOUR OF BOTH RANGES, AND PARTIAL GROUND TOUR OF EMPIRE RANGE INCLUDING OBSERVATION OF SOME LIVE-FIRE EXERCISES. (JUNE 16) SUBSEQUENT TO TRIP, PANAMANIANS REQUESTED COPIES OF TEXTS OF BOTH BRIEFINGS, OF SLIDES AND MAPS USED IN USAF BRIEFING AND OF COMPLETE ARMY MAP OF EMPIRE RANGE, ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THEM AS OF JUNE 28.

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D. FAA/FBIS: GROUP RECEIVED BRIEFING, WITH SLIDES, ON ALL FAA INSTALLATIONS IN CANAL ZONE, AND TOUR OF BALBOA AIR ROUTE TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SERVICE STATION, ACCOMPANIED BY FAA AREA MANAGER LARSEN AND SEVERAL SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF. THEREAFTER, GROUP VISITED FBIS CHIVA CHIVA ANTENNA FARM AND RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM FBIS PANAMA BUREAU CHIEF BRONSON. (JUNE 18) SUBSEQUENTLY, PANAMANIANS REQUESTED MAPS SHOWING LOCATIONS AND DETAILS OF CHIVA CHIVA AND OF ALL FAA FACILITIES, ALONG WITH DETAIL DRAWINGS OF SMALLER PARCELS, AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE OF EACH FAA INSTALLATION. WITH CONCURRENCE OF LOCAL HEADS OF CONCERNED AGENCIES, EMBASSY HAS UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION (MOST OF WHICH OTHER AGENCIES OF GOP ALREADY HAVE IN

ONE FORM OR ANOTHER).

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /007 W
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R 061620Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8346

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PANAMA 4698

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E. PANCANAL PORT AND MARINE OPERATIONS: GROUP RECEIVED ALL-DAY DETAILED BRIEFING, INCLUDING FILMS AND VISUAL AIDS, FROM ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND TERMINALS BUREAU AND DIRECTOR OF MARINE BUERAU, ALONG WITH OTHER TECHNICIANS, AND THEN RECEIVED BRIEFING AND TOUR OF NEW MARINE TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER. (JUNE 23)

F. PACIFIC SIDE, EAST BANK: DRIVING TOUR OF ALL SIGNIFICANT MILITARY FACILITIES IN AREA (AMADOR-GRANT, ALBROOK, CLAYTON) WITH EXCEPTION OF CLAYTON TRAINING AREAS, WHICH ARE TO BE COVERED LATER. (JUNE 28)

G. PACIFIC SIDE, EAST BANK: DRIVING TOUR OF PAN CANAL FACILITIES IN SAME AREA (PANCANAL AND MILITARY WERE SEPARATED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT DUE TO DENSITY OF FACILITIES IN THIS AREA) AND GAMBOA. (JUNE 30)
TIME DID NOT PERMIT TRIP TO MADDEN, AND THIS AREA WILL BE COVERED ALONG WITH CLAYTON TRAINING AREAS AT LATER DATE.

5. PLANNED OR PROJECTED ACTIVITIES: THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES SIMILAR TO THE ABOVE ARE EITHER ALREADY

SCHEDULED, OR ARE PLANNED AND WILL BE SCHEDULED AS
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TIME PERMITS:

A. BRIEFING AND VISIT TO CURUNDU ANTENNA FARM:
REQUESTED BY PANAMANIAN; SOUTHCOM IS ARRANGING WITH
USAF.

B. BRIEFING ON U.S. NAVY COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVI-
TIES: REQUESTED BY PANAMANIAN; SOUTHCOM IS ARRANGING
WITH NAVY. FYI: ONE OF PANAMANIAN VOLUNTEERED THAT
HE AND OTHERS HAD IMPRESSION THEY HAD OBSERVED EXPANSION
IN AREA UTILIZED BY NAVY AT SUMMIT, AND WANTED TO BOTH
TIE DOWN THIS ACTIVITY IN THEIR OWN MINDS AND TO QUERY
ON ANY PLANS OR PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE EXPANSION RE-
QUIREMENT IN SUMMIT OR OTHER AREA. END FYI.

C. VISIT TO BARRO COLORADO ISLAND AND OTHER
SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE: SUGGESTED BY
PANAMAIS SUBSEQUENT TO ATLANTIC SIDE TRIP. STRI
DIRECTOR RUBINOFF INDICATED NO PROBLEM; WILL BE SCHEDULED
AS TIME PERMITS.

D. FULL NIGHT TRANSIT OF CANAL: TRANSIT HAS BEEN
SUGGESTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY PANCANAL, MOST RE-
CENTLY BY MARINE BUREAU DIRECTOR AT PORTS SESSION.
NIGHT TRANSIT IS SUGGESTION OF LT. COL. DUKER. PANA-
MANIAN HAVE INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN MAKING AT
LEAST PARTIAL TRANSIT, BUT ARE UNDERSTANDABLY PER-
SONALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF MAKING A FULL
NIGHT OF IT. IN END, WE EXPECT THEM TO DO IT. PANCANAL
WILL SCHEDULE AS SOON AS HEALTH OF PANAMANIAN PARTICI-
PANTS (FLU) PERMITS.

E. BRIEFING ON PANCANAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:
OFFERED BY EMBASSY, AFTER CONSULATION WITH PANCANAL,
AT SUGGESTION OF DUKER. PANAMANIAN HAVE AGREED IN
PRINCIPLE AND PANCANAL WILL SCHEDULE. SUBJECT WAS
TOUCHED ON, BUT NOT EXPLORED IN DETAIL, DURING PORTS AND
MARINE OPERATIONS BRIEFING.

F. MILITARY SCHOOLS: PANAMANIAN HAVE REQUESTED
DETAILED BRIEFING, AND RE-VISIT, TO US ARMY SCHOOL OF
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THE AMERICAS AND INTER-AMERICAN AIR FORCES ACADEMY, WHICH WERE OBSERVED ONLY BRIEFLY AND GENERALLY DURING DRIVING TOURS OF AREAS IN WHICH LOCATED. SOUTHCOM WILL SET UP.

G. INTER-AMERICAN GEODETIC SURVEY: PANAMANIAN REQUESTED BRIEFING AND VISIT TO FACILITIES; SOUTHCOM WILL SET UP.

H. HELICOPTER OBSERVATION FLIGHT OVER ENTIRE CANAL ZONE: PANAMANIAN INCLUDED TWO SUCH TRIPS AS FINAL ITEMS ON THEIR ORIGINAL SCHEDULES, BUT HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD PREFER TO DEFER THEM UNTIL IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO NEXT FORMAL NEGOTIATING ROUND, AT WHICH TIME THEY HOPE JACKLEY AND DUKER WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY. IN PRINCIPLE, FABREGA HAS INDICATED HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS. SOUTHCOM HAS INDICATED IT WOULD SET UP AFTER DATE OF NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS KNOWN.

I. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT PANAMANIAN MAY WELL DEVELOP FURTHER REQUESTS FOR BRIEFINGS OR INFORMATION, ACCOMPANIED BY RE-VISITS TO VARIOUS FACILITIES, INSTALLATIONS OR AREAS, DURING THE COURSE OF THE ABOVE. TO EXTENT FEASIBLE, EMBASSY WILL SEEK TO MEET ANY REASONABLE REQUESTS AND ARRANGE THROUGH PANCANAL, SOUTHCOM AND/OR OTHER AGENCIES AS APPROPRIATE.

6. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION: SUBSEQUENT TO FIRST VISIT IN SERIES, PANAMANIAN REQUESTED MAPS SPECIFYING AREAS CURRENTLY IN USE BY PANCANAL AS DREDGE SPOIL DUMPS, AND FURTHER SPECIFYING CHANGES, ENLARGEMENT, OPENING OF NEW AREAS OR TERMINATION OF USE OF OLD ONES, DURING PAST 30 YEARS. PANCANAL HAS EXPERIENCED SOME DIFFICULTY IN ASSEMBLING THIS INFORMATION IN COMPREHENSIBLE FORM, BUT RECENTLY INDICATED TO PANAMANIAN THAT IT EXPECTED TO HAVE RESPONSE SHORTLY. PANAMANIAN HAVE PRESENTED OTHER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT VARIOUS TIMES; TO EXTENT FEASIBLE, PANCANAL AND SOUTHCOM ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERTAKING TO RESPOND TO SUCH REQUESTS AND HAVE INDICATED THAT, WITHIN REASON, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

7. COPIES OF DETAILED SCHEDULES OR PROGRAMS FOR TRIPS OR BRIEFINGS ALREADY HELD HAVE BEEN POUCHED ARA/PAN - BECKER AND DOD/ISA - DUKER AT VARIOUS TIMES FOLLOWING

EACH SESSION. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE AT
END OF EACH TRIP OR MEETING, AND WILL REPORT ANY
SIGNIFICANT NEW ITEMS OR REQUESTS BY CABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND, WATER, NEGOTIATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PANAMA04698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760260-0435
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760788/aaaaczft.tel
Line Count: 335
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - ACTIVITIES OF LANDS AND WATERS SUB-GROUP
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006